

computers, wherein expanded bit-map band data by the print data expander of each client computer is transferred to the print server computer, and

the print server computer comprises:

a combiner for combining bit-map band data expanded by the print data expander of the print server computer and the expanded bit-map band data received from at least one of the client computers to produce bit-map data corresponding to the generated print data.

21. (Amended) A network system comprising a print server computer and a plurality of client computers, wherein each of the plurality of client computers comprises:

a first print data expander for expanding print data to bit-map data;

a page divider for dividing generated print data for each page into a plurality of bands, wherein the generated print data is generated by an application; and

a transfer controller for transferring a sequentially selected one of the bands to an available one of print data expanders of the print server computer and other client computers, wherein expanded bit-map band data by the print data expander of each client computer is transferred to the print server computer,

the print server computer comprising:

a second print data expander for expanding print data received from at least one of the client computers to bit-map band data in parallel with said first print data expander;

a combiner for combining bit-map band data expanded by the print data expander of the print server computer and the expanded bit-map band data received from at least one of the client computers to produce bit-map data corresponding to the generated print data.

22. (Amended) A client computer in a network system comprising a print server computer and a plurality of client computers, said client computer comprising:

a print data expander for expanding print data to bit-map data;

a page divider for dividing generated print data for each page into a plurality of bands, wherein the generated print data is generated by an application; and

a transfer controller for transferring a sequentially selected one of the bands to an available one of print data expanders of the print server computer and other client computers, wherein expanded bit-map band data by the print data expander of the client computer is transferred to the print server computer,

wherein the print server computer combines bit-map band data expanded by the printer server computer and the expanded bit-map band data received from at least one of the client computers to produce bit-map data corresponding to the generated print data.

b2

23. (Amended) A network system comprising a plurality of client computers and a server program for instructing a print server computer, wherein each of the plurality of client computers comprises:

a first print data expander for expanding print data to bit-map data;

a page divider for dividing generated print data for each page into a plurality of bands, wherein the generated print data is generated by an application; and

a transfer controller for transferring a sequentially selected one of the bands to an available one of print data expanders of the print server computer and other client computers, wherein expanded bit-map band data by the print data expander of each client computer is transferred to the print server computer, and wherein

the server program comprises the steps of:

expanding print data received from at least one of the client computers to bit-map band data in parallel with said first print data expander;

combining bit-map band data expanded by the print data expander of the print server computer and the expanded bit-map band data received from at least one of the client computers to produce bit-map data corresponding to the generated print data.

24. (Amended) A network system comprising a print server computer, a plurality of client computers and a client program for instructing a client computer, said program comprising the steps of:

expanding print data to bit-map data;

dividing generated print data for each page into a plurality of bands, wherein the generated print data is generated by an application; and

Serial No. 09/174,551

Attorney Docket No. 043034/0135

transferring a sequentially selected one of the bands to an available one of print data expanders of the print server computer and other client computers, wherein expanded bit-map band data by the print data expander of each client computer is transferred to the print server computer.

---

*Handwritten initials*